

THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org

Office (570-323-4619) Fax (570-323-2452)

Welcome to Saint Mark's!

This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

Our Mission: “To know Christ and to make Christ known.”



Please note:

Hand sanitizer is available for your use.

Offerings may be received by way of offering plates as you enter or leave. An Order for Holy Communion; *Setting One, Lutheran Book of Worship*

A guide to hymnal use: All hymns are printed in the bulletin and when reference is available the LBW, Green Book; WOV, Blue Book

Light print = Pastor/Leader. Bold print = Congregation.

****Please stand as you are able.***

PRELUDE *In Green Pastures*

Harold Darke

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Kneel/Stand)

Silence for Reflection and self-examination

Most merciful God,

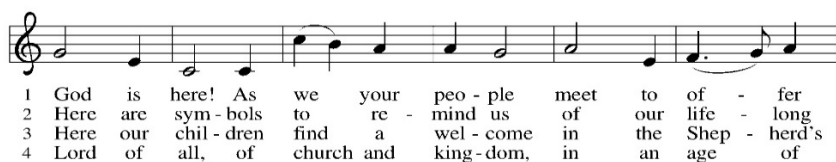
we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ is given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those of you who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

***HYMN God is Here!**

WOV “Blue,” 719



*THE GREETING

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

*HYMN OF PRAISE



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

B Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:

We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:

You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

***THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹ The word of the LORD came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³ As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live. The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 25:1-9

¹ To ¹ you, O LORD,
I lift ¹ up my soul.

² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be ¹ put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph ¹ over me.**

³ Let none who look to you be ¹ put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame ¹ who are treacherous.

⁴ **Show me your ¹ ways, O LORD,
and teach ¹ me your paths.**

⁵ Lead me in your ¹ truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all ¹ the day
long.

⁶ **Remember, O LORD, your compas- ¹ sion and love,
for they are from ¹ everlasting.**

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and ¹ my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your
good- ¹ ness, O LORD.

⁸ **You are gracious and up- ¹ right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners ¹ in your way.**

⁹ You lead the low- ¹ ly in justice
and teach the low- ¹ ly your way.

THE SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any
partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy
complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and
of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in
humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to
your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you
that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,

⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,

¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my
presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with
fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to
will and to work for his good pleasure.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***THE GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32 (The Authority of Jesus)**

The holy gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew,
the 21th chapter.



²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”
The gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

***HYMN Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word LBW “Green,” 230**



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and



by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife



and bring to naught all he has done.
may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
and lead us out of death to life.

ERHALT UNS, HERR

***THE APOSTLES' CREED**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son,
our Lord. He was conceived by the
power of the Holy Spirit and born of
the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,**

the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

After each petition: Hear us, O God/Your mercy is great.

***THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

People may greet one another with these or similar words or gestures.

***OFFERING**



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

God of creation,
you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you;
make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts

in service to you and in love to our neighbors,
today and always.

Amen.

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The musical score is written on four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a 'P' in a square box, followed by the lyrics 'The Lord be with you.' The second staff begins with a 'C' in a square box, followed by the lyrics 'And al - so with you.' The third staff begins with a 'P' in a square box, followed by the lyrics 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.' The fourth staff begins with a 'C' in a square box, followed by the lyrics 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give him thanks and praise.'

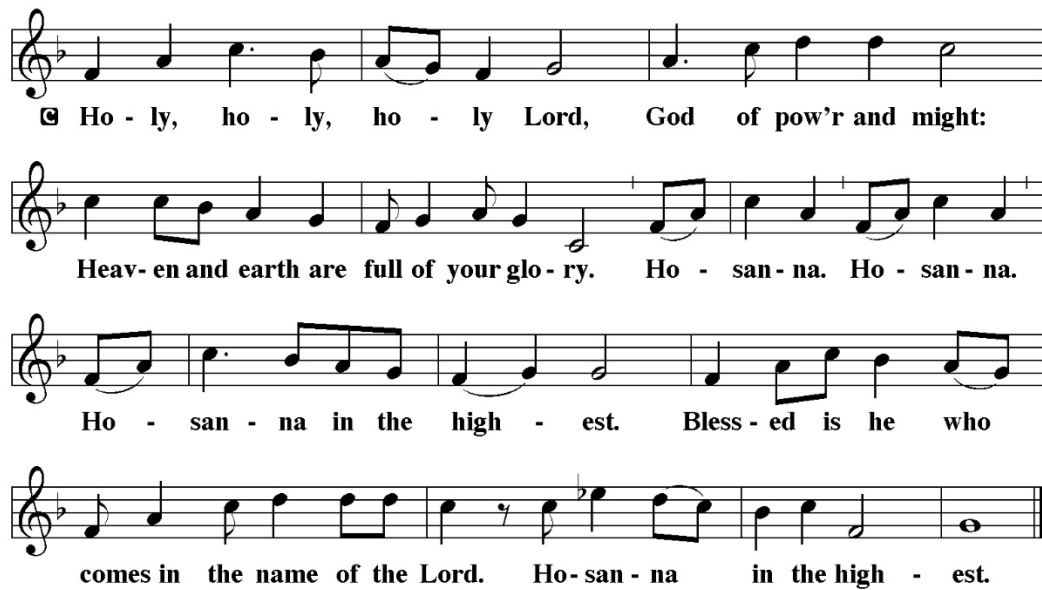
P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of eternal life. And so with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy, mighty and merciful Lord,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 In your great love you sent to us
 Jesus your Son, who reached out to
 heal the sick and suffering, who
 preached the good news to the poor,
 and who on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, gave
 thanks; broke it, and gave it to his
 disciples, saying, "Take and eat. This
 is my body given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper,
 he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink saying,
 "This cup is the new
 covenant in my blood, shed

for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

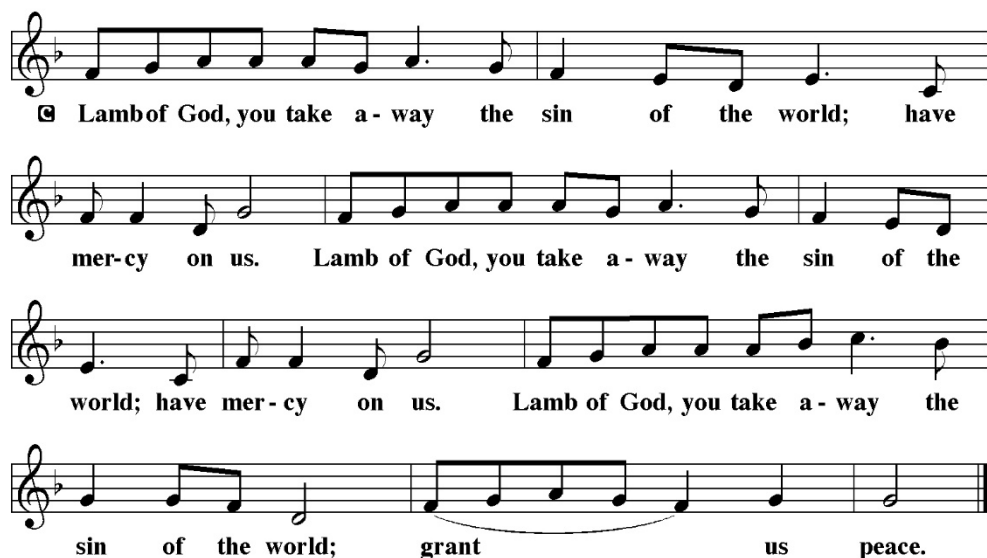
Remembering therefore,
his death, resurrection
and ascension, we await
his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us
the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
unite the wills of all who share this
heavenly food, the body and blood of
Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with whom and in whom, with you and the Holy
Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.
Amen.

***OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord as you have taught us, so now we pray:
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever.
Amen.**

*LAMB OF GOD



*INVITATION TO COMMUNE

Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

Thanks be to God!

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Use the center aisle, pick up a small glass on the way. Receive the bread and then proceed to receive the wine by way of a pouring chalice. After communing return to your pew using a side aisle. Those not communing may come forward for a blessing.

Know that the crucified and risen Christ gives himself to you in his supper. If you cannot eat bread, drink only the wine. If you cannot drink wine, eat only the bread.

THE COMMUNION

*AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Sustaining God,
with this bread and cup,
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

***BLESSING**

The God of love
draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

***HYMN Strengthen For Service, Lord LBW “Green,” 218**

1 Strength-en for ser - vice, Lord, the hands That ho - ly things have
 2 The tongues that sang your ho - ly name Now purge of all de -
 3 And may the feet that walked your courts Be nev - er lured to

tak - en; And let the ears that heard your
 cep - tion; Keep bright the eyes that saw your
 wan - der; But lead the faith - ful nour - ished

Word To false - hood nev - er wak - en.
 love And sharp - en their per - cep - tion.
 here To jour - ney on in splen - dor.

WIR DIENEN, HERR

*DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Joyous Acclamation* Lani Smith

Summary: Jesus challenges the religious leaders about his authority and tells the parable showing that obedience matters more than outward claim of faith.

Theme: Authentic faith; obedience; responding to God's call.

Music notes:

In today's Gospel (Matthew 21:23–32), Jesus challenges the religious leaders' claims to authority and tells a parable in which true faithfulness is shown not in words, but in obedient action. This week's hymns pick up that thread of authentic, lived-out faith.

We begin with "God is here" (ABBOT'S LEIGH), grounding us in the reality of God's presence among us as we gather, a fitting starting point before we're challenged to consider what genuine faith looks like. "Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word" (ERHALT UNS, HERR) is a prayer for constancy and integrity of belief, asking God to keep our faith firm rather than merely professed, echoing the parable's contrast between those who say the right thing and those who actually do it. We close with "Strengthen for service, Lord" (WIR DIENEN, HERR), a direct petition that our worship translate into faithful service and obedience in daily life — the very obedience Jesus commends in today's Gospel over empty claims of loyalty.

About the voluntaries: Today's voluntaries come from Harold Darke and Lani Smith. Darke, best known for his beloved setting of In the Bleak Midwinter, brings a gentle pastoral quality to In Green Pastures, reflecting on themes of rest and provision, while Smith's Joyous Acclamation offers a bright, celebratory close to the service. Smith was one of the most prolific American church-music composers of the twentieth century, publishing over a thousand works during his years with Lorenz Publishing, often under pen names like Gerald Peterson and David Paxton in addition to his own.

OUR PRAYER LIST

Grace Arner, Vanessa Morgan, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, Gary Cable, Virginia Pulaskie, Bunny Ditchfield, Ezra Buckman, Claire Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini, Walt & Leah Haussmann, Kristin Rehm, Ariel, John Tartline, George Poliska, Connie Shaible, John Holohan, Loretta Hawe, Donna Baker, Ann Kuntz, Ann & Charles Kuntz, Dave Williams, Bud Doeblor, Shirley Hill, Ruth Osbaugh, Pam Osbaugh, Becky Pryor, Hannah Hausmann, Stephen Boone, Joshua Garverick, Jane Kline and David Martinez.

COMMEMORATIONS

Michael and All Angels

Tuesday, September 29, 2026

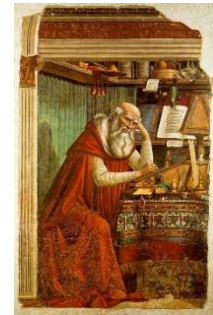
Michael the archangel, captain of the heavenly hosts, is remembered on this day along with the other angels and archangels. The word "angel" means messenger, and in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, these beings have a fully spiritual nature and no physical body.



Jerome, translator, teacher, died 420

Wednesday, September 30, 2026

Jerome was a biblical scholar and translator, but rather than translating the original Hebrew and Greek scriptures into classical Latin, he worked in the commonly-spoken Latin of the day, creating a version called the Vulgate.



THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Today, September 27	Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost Holy Communion, 9:30 am Ray Huff preaching and presiding
Monday, September 28	Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm
Tuesday September 29	Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm
Wednesday, September 30	Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm
Thursday, October 1	Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm Symbols Booklet Committee, 1:15 pm
Friday, October 2	Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm
Saturday, October 3	Office Closed

Sunday, October 4

Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Holy Communion, 9:30 am

Ray Huff preaching and presiding

Worship and Music after service

Harvest Home

Pet Blessing, 2 pm

OUR STEWARDSHIP for September 20, 2026

Regular Offering \$2,522.00

Plate Offerings 40.00

Parish Life 50.00

Flower Memorials/Tributes 70.00

Grand Total \$2632.00

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God; and

In loving memory of Ralph Zeigler, Sr. on his birthday, by his family; and

In loving memory of loved ones, by Donna Boston.

WORSHIP LEADERS for September 27, 2026

Preacher/Celebrant 9:30 am Ray Huff

Lector 9:30 am Megan Cartwright

Communion Assistants 9:30 am Mindy Wentzel & Deb Buckman

Ushers 9:30 am Mel Wentzel & Glenn Yapple

Hospitality 9:30 am Barb Thomas & Becky Pryor

Offering Collection 9:30 am Donna Clark

Organist Sam Robinson

Altar Guild Sally Bjornstad & Vicki Haussmann

WORSHIP LEADERS for October 4, 2026

Preacher/Celebrant 9:30 am Ray Huff

Lector 9:30 am Donna Clark

Communion Assistants 9:30 am Brian & Nikki Jackson

Ushers 9:30 am Brenda, Ed & Levi Gair

Hospitality 9:30 am Candy Dewar

Offering Collection 9:30 am Donna Clark

Organist Sam Robinson

Altar Guild Cindy Huff & Linda Rosini

BIRTHDAYS

Dave Williams

9/28

KEEP IN MIND:

~When you or a family member are ill, have a crisis of faith, or have a personal concern of which you wish to make the pastor aware, please contact the church office telephone (570-323-4619) or email: stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org.

~ When you or a loved one has a change of address, email, or telephone number, please contact the church office at stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org or 570-323- 4619. Please direct your intentions whether or not to share this information with our church family, so that in may be included in the weekly bulletin and/or the "Lion."



Sunday, Oct. 4 is blanket Sunday. Blankets donated will be sent to Lutheran World Relief with our other kits. Blankets should be 60x80 in. max and no polar fleece is accepted. Please continue collecting for the other kits. There are a few empty school kit bags in the narthex along with bags that are partially filled - a note on the bag tells what is still needed. An example of a personal care kit and a baby kit are in the narthex. For fabric kits, please make sure to look at the dimensions for fabric. Fabric is available at Walmart and Hobby Lobby. Acceptable fabrics are cotton and cotton/polyester blends. All kits should be in by Oct. 4 but will accept through the **packing party on Tuesday, Oct. 13 at noon - lunch provided**. God bless your generosity. Deb B

FINANCE

Committee chairpersons please turn in you budget requests by Monday, Oct. 5. Next finance committee meeting is Monday, Oct. 12

Well it will be officially Fall this week and with that the St. Mark's finance committee begins to think about the budget for 2027. To do that we have to think Stewardship Campaign which will begin Sunday, Oct. 11 with temple talks and then will conclude Sunday, November 1 with the collection of the

pledges. Between today and the conclusion of the campaign you need to think about and pray about what your financial commitment will be. Please read your Bible about what God says about giving and then pray that you will be able to meet God's plan.



Most Needed At.....

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee thanks you for any assistance you can give.

Shepherd of the Streets: Needed are Laundry Pods, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Tissues, Band Aids, Women's Deodorant, Q-tips, Shampoo, Body Wash, Hand Soap, Children's Toothbrushes and Toothpaste. **The Shepherd's office continues to need paper towels and shampoo for women and men.**

Sojourner Truth Ministries (STM): Needed are Individual Snacks/Breakfast Bars, Large, Brown Lunch Bags Napkins, Mayonnaise, Sugar, Snack-Size Ziplock Bags and Pine Sol or Lysol Cleaner.

United Churches Food Pantry: Our Worship and Music Committee is collecting non-perishable food items for our **Harvest Home Celebration** on October 4. If you forgot to bring some groceries today, please bring them next week and place them in the Narthex.

Sandwich Needs: We continue to accept monetary donations. These donations assist with bread, rolls, meat, cheese, individual condiment packages and sandwich bags. Checks may be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line stating Parish Life. Thank you for the donations we have already received.

Thank You

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee heartily thanks our Church Council members for providing ALL the desserts/cookies for Redeemer's September community dinner! Our committee is grateful for Council's willingness to serve in this capacity.

We are also grateful for the willingness of Susan and Jim Newcomer to provide all the desserts for the remainder of 2026! They have been committed to this outreach for the past few years and have made sure Redeemer did not

need to omit desserts from their dinners.

Many thanks to you all. Our committee is blessed to have so much support.



Synod Trip to Germany

A trip to Germany is being planned by our Synod 10/10-10/18 (with an option to stay through 10/21), 2026. There is a flyer with more details available, if you are interested please see the church office. Those wishing to go should keep these dates open.



A bus trip to **Stone Gables Estate* in Elizabethtown, PA** is being organized by Cheryl Williams. This trip is being planned for Wednesday, November 18, 2026. The bus will be pulling out around 10:30 AM from Beiter's parking lot. The trip will include bus fare, a meal catered by "Food for Thought Catering", a ride on the Santa Express train, and the National Christmas center followed by the Christmas light drive-thru. All are included in the price of \$151.00 per adult, children are \$107.00. If interested, please contact Cheryl at (570) 327-1627, **reservations are due by October 5, 2026.**

* Stone Gables Estate is a biblical faith-based ministry/business. Their mission is to donate 100% of net profits to aid abandoned children worldwide.



Harvest Home Sunday will be celebrated **October 4, 2026**. Please pick-up a paper bag in the narthex marked for this event and fill it with non-perishable food items. Our donations will be shared with the United Churches of Lycoming County Food Pantry. Please return bags by Sunday, September 27, 2026 so they can be displayed in the Nave on Harvest Home Sunday.



Our Community's annual walk to fight hunger, CROP Hunger Walk, will be held **Sunday, October 11th** at 1:00 PM, on the River Walk in Williamsport. The walk begins here at St. Mark's and you can walk 3, 6 or 9 miles (most of us walk 3 miles).

Join the **St. Mark's Lutheran Church Lions** team to walk or donate. Our goal is \$1,000 (last year we raised \$1,157.00)! Hungry people in developing countries can walk as many as six miles a day for food and water. We walk because they walk. By walking on a fall afternoon, you create awareness to these issues, raise funds and have fellowship with members of the St. Mark's congregation as well as other congregations.

25% of the funds we raise support local hunger agencies and the other 75% is distributed by Church World Service nationally and internationally. In partnership CROP walks support self-help programs, assist after disasters and help address root causes of poverty by providing water systems and tools to grow the food they need.

To register to walk or donate to our team, you can speak with Brenda Gair (text 570- 220-8859) or on-line; <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/team/st-marks-lutheran-church-lions>, click the orange "Make a Donation".

Checks can be made payable to "CWS/CROP"



Pet Blessing

Please join us Sunday, October 4 at 2:00 PM for our annual Pet Blessing! We invite you and your pet to meet in the back parking lot for a short service including the blessing of pets as we remember God's gift of animals in our lives. Should there be rain, this service will be moved indoors. We hope to see you, your family, and your pets as we celebrate the gift of furry friends in our lives.



Old Immanuel Lutheran Church Annual Hymn Sing

Mr. Stuart Hague, Certified Lay Pastor in the Presbyterian Church (USA) will be leading the Annual Hymn Sing at Old Immanuel Lutheran Church, 2633 Lime Bluff Road, Muncy, Pa, on Sunday, **October 11, 2026**, at 2:30 pm. The theme of the service this year is "God's Grace," and the music, hymns, and teachings will center around that topic. Joy Barto and Jeff Harvey will provide organ music on the church's antique pump organ, and the Chancel Choir of St. Andrew Lutheran in Muncy will present "Grace Us, O Lord," by Joseph M. Martin.

Recently, the church's roof has received a new coat of paint. In addition, the church's belltower has been renovated and refurbished, and all the shutters have been repaired and repainted. Further projects include restoration of the windows, walls, and ceiling. A free-will offering will be taken to help offset the cost of these and other on-going expenses.

The church will be decorated for fall, and the weather should be ideal for touring the church and walking the historic cemetery. Light refreshments will be served on the church lawn after the service. Please note that the church does not have running water or electricity, and is not fully handicap accessible. For more information, or to follow Old Immanuel more closely, "Like" "Old Immanuel Lutheran Church" on FaceBook!!!

Church Fuel Co-Op 2026-2027 Heating Season

United Churches of Lycoming County is pleased to announce that the winner of the 2026-2027 heating season Church Fuel Co-Op bid is R W Dittmar Plumbing, Heating, and Oil Company of Muncy. As a participating member of the Co-Op, our church members can receive the following discount:

Current wagon price minus \$.15/gal discount if paid within 10 days. Additional \$.05/gal will be applied if payment is made the day of delivery for a total of \$.20/gal.

Discounts apply during normal business hours Monday through Friday and they would like 24 hours notice for scheduling deliveries.

A credit/debit card can also be put on file for automatically charging the payments.

There is a \$3 fuel charge on all delivery tickets.

LIHEAP Crisis funds cannot be used with the discount.

Minimum delivery is 125 gallons.

Co-op discounts will not apply if the customer has not paid for their last delivery.

Does not apply to propane or for pump sales at the gas station in Jersey Shore.

If you are interested in using R W Dittmar Plumbing, Heating, and Oil Company of Muncy for your home heating oil needs, please contact them at 570.546.2746 to schedule an initial inspection and set-up.



We welcome Deacon Sue Ellen Spotts, Director of Evangelical Mission for the Upper Susquehanna Synod. Council will engage in a "listening" session as Deacon Spotts explains the next steps in our Call Process. Emphasis will be our planning for the Ministry Site Profile. Council will schedule meetings; ALL ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE!!!

You're invited!

October Wednesdays' Book Study, reading Kelly Fryer's "Reclaiming the C Word: Daring to be Church Again", meets at 12:10pm to 12:50pm starting October 7th in the Middle Lounge. Copies are in the Narthex or give your name to Michele in the church office. Please join us!!!!



There will be a memorial service for Fred Simpson, brother of Joyce Hershberger, and his wife, Ann, on Friday, October 23, 2026 at the Santa Monica Church in Berwyn, PA. Fred passed away in 2024, and Ann passed away earlier this year. All are welcome to attend.

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